February 4, 2013

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held in the Superintendent’s Office at Central School on Monday, February 4, 2013, at 7:00 PM on posted notice by the Clerk for the purpose of consideration of a general contractor recommendation for refinishing six classrooms, two restrooms and all associated work within the scope of the project at Central Elementary School followed by the monthly meetings of the Finance Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee. In attendance were trustees Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, Dennis Lorenz, Dexter Thiel, Serina Everett and Craig Steinbeisser. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters; SEA representatives Barb Dornfeld, Cara Lokken-Frandsen and Janet Spracklin.

Chairwoman Dey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of a general contractor for the Central second floor 1949 wing remodeling project. Although only two contractors submitted paperwork for consideration, three contractors had completed the mandatory walk-through.

Ms. Dey began the meeting by requesting that Superintendent Farr redact the contractor scoring done by Trustee Dennis Lorenz at the selection committee meeting. She had received a complaint from a contractor stating the process had not been done correctly because Mr. Lorenz is a high school trustee only and this was an elementary building so he should not have been part of the process and a quorum of trustees were present at the selection committee meeting although no official action was taken at that time and the meeting was posted.

Discussion followed regarding the process to be followed going forward with alternative delivery projects as well as how the procedures followed this time caused some issues and what could be done to avoid those issues in the future. Mr. Farr redacted Mr. Lorenz’s scoring and the results did not change. Following the discussion, Mr. Farr reminded the Trustees they had two choices, accept the recommendation of the committee to hire B&B Builders as the general contractor on the 1949 Central second floor remodel as per the result of committee deliberations and scoring or establish new guidelines for the selection process, advertise the project again and start the project in a month’s time. Trustees discussed the ramifications of delaying the process with the ordering and receipt of materials needed to ensure the wing would be ready for occupation in August.

Mr. Thiel moved to accept the recommendation of the committee and move forward with the project with B&B Builders as the general contractor on the Central 1949 wing project. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0 with Mr. Lorenz abstaining as this is an elementary issue and Mrs. Everett abstaining because of a conflict of interest.

The Trustees directed the superintendent to work on guidelines for the alternative delivery process in the future. Guidelines should include the make-up of the selection committee with the request that trustees do not have a quorum in attendance at selection committee meetings and trustees rotate through the process so different individuals have input. They also wanted some changes to the questions. Suggestions included do the contractors do drug testing; could certain questions be “weighted” – for example profit, fees and time schedule should be worth more points than experience; and state experience of the supervisor rather than the company.

Chairwoman Dey called the Finance Committee meeting to order and asked if anyone in attendance would like to comment on any non-agenda items. No one responded.

Clerk Beyer distributed copies of the December claims, lunch report and monthly revenue, expenditures and fund balance reports.

Mr. Farr reviewed the ins and outs of students to date through the end of January. Spring count day was Friday the February 1st. Preliminary numbers indicate an increase of 42 ANB K-6; decrease of 8 ANB 7-8 and increase of 44 ANB 9-12. With increasing enrollment, it is anticipated the actual ANB will be used for 2013-2014 budgets rather than a three year average.

Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees on the Montana Quality Education Coalition and Caucus Day on the Hill which will be attended by himself and Mr. Thiel. He also updated them on lobbyists and legislative education bills currently under consideration – this topic spurred some lively discussion on bills to support and the effects of some proposed legislation on Sidney Schools. The consensus was Sidney Public Schools would support SB 175 as well as176 and 177.

Additional attendance agreements will be on the Consent Agenda.

Estimated figures for the third quarter oil and gas revenue were received from the Treasurer. While these figures are up from last quarter, they are still less than the first quarter and down over all for the year. The recommendation from administration is to pay the salaried employee impact stipends previously paid in December of 2011 and to wait on any HRA contributions until the fourth payment is received in May. The consensus of the Trustees is to proceed with paying the salaried employee impact stipends and review funding available in May with regards to the HRA contributions.

Mr. Farr stated the office continues to work on the impacts by the affordable health care act. It is possible it would be less expensive to the District to take the penalty than to provide insurance.

Work continues on finding an IBB trainer for 2013 negotiations.

Building and Grounds Committee reviewed the results of the community survey regarding facilities and land for a school site, reported on the schedule for the one year warranty walk-throughs on completed projects, reviewed project/maintenance lists for each building and were updated on M-Space progress with West Side staff housing.

Mr. Thiel suggested approaching the county regarding housing alternatives as they would be able to use housing as low income housing when the oil boom is done. Mr. Farr reported on a housing meeting sponsored by Richland Economic Development.

Mr. Farr also reported that a reply had been sent on the District’s behalf by MTSBA providing the Savage Law Firm with a range of possible rents for the old administration building.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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Board Chair

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

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District Clerk